

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2800 (014)

January 12, 1995

Memorandum

To: Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Services Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Area Manager, Shivwits

Subject: Reinitiation of Consultation (2-21-94-F-173) for Dixie-Escalante Rural Electrification Association Right-of-Way Amendment (AR-036027)

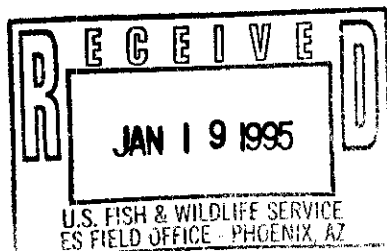
The Bureau would like to reinitiate formal consultation on an amendment of an existing right-of-way (ROW) for Dixie-Escalante Rural Electrification Association (DEREA). On January 14, 1994, the Bureau requested formal consultation for DERE to upgrade the line from Mesquite, Nevada, to Beaver Dam, Arizona. On March 9, 1994, the Service issued a biological opinion (2-21-94-F-173) for the project.

65 DERE has requested an amendment to their ROW for this project. Their original proposal for the upgrade would leave the existing powerline alignment in T40N, R15W, section 19 (map attached), and run north to the corner of T40N, R15W, sections 18 and 19, and T40N, R16W, sections 13 and 24. They have been unable to acquire an easement across private land in T40N, R15W, section 18, and are proposing to locate the upgraded line on public lands in T40N, R16W, section 24 and 13.

This would increase the distance that the powerline would cross public lands by approximately 700 feet (with a concomitant reduction in length across private lands). The line would then follow the south side of Highway 91 across private lands. There would be no other changes to the action for which consultation has been completed.


Prior to the issuance of a ROW amendment the Bureau would survey the new area for threatened and endangered species (focusing on desert tortoises) and also for cultural properties. The Bureau does not anticipate any change in impacts to wildlife species from this modification, nor would there be any need to change the statement of take or terms and conditions set forth in your biological opinion.

Construction will begin shortly on that portion of the ROW for which NEPA and ESA compliance has been achieved. DERE will not work on the area in question until we have received an amended biological opinion and the Bureau has completed NEPA compliance.



I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any comments or questions please call me or Ilene Anderson at the Shiwits Area Office at (801) 628-4491.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George W. Cropper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George W. Cropper
Area Manager

Attachment
Map

